



State of New Jersey
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EMT TRAINING FUND
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The questions and answers below have been prepared in an effort to clarify any confusion or misunderstandings associated with the implementation and ongoing operation of the EMT Training Fund and the EMT Training Fund Advisory Council.

1 What is the EMT Training Fund?

The EMT Training Fund (EMTTF) is a non-lapsing, revolving fund, established to reimburse any private agency, organization or entity which is certified by the commissioner (of Health and Senior Services) to provide training and testing for volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue squad personnel who are seeking emergency medical technician certification and/or recertification, and for which that entity is not otherwise reimbursed.

2. Where is the money coming from that supports this fund?

The fund is supported by a \$.50 surcharge on each fine, penalty and forfeiture imposed and collected by the State for motor vehicle or traffic violations.

3. What is the EMTTF Advisory Council and who comprises the membership?

Under section 6 of the act, a 13 member council has been established and responsible for the following:

- o Establishing guidelines and making recommendations regarding reimbursement from the fund to entities providing EMT training and testing activities.
- o Making recommendations for changes in testing and training activities or the creation of new programs as necessary to conform with federal guidelines or to improve the quality of EMS.
- o Establishing guidelines for the purchase of EMS training equipment.
- o Developing recommendations for the most effective means to recruit EMS volunteers.

The advisory council includes representation from the public, the NJ State First Aid Council, the NJ Hospital Association, NJ State Police, the Medical Transportation Association of NJ, the State Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) Advisory Board, NJ Department of Health & Senior Services and the NJ State Nurses Association.

4. Are there any regulations governing the establishment of the EMTTF and if so, how can I obtain them?

Yes, there are regulations governing the establishment of the fund, and EMT training in general. The regulations may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code (8:40A). The authority for the regulations is N.J.S.A. 26:2K-54 et seq. (P.L. 1992, c.143, section 8) and N.J.S.A. 26-2K-39, et seq. They became effective on April 21, 1997. Copies may be obtained by contacting the New Jersey State First Aid Council's executive officers, District Education Training Chairperson, or any EMT course coordinator. In addition, you may visit your community's local municipal building and review N.J.A.C. 8:40A.

5. How were reimbursement fees for both the basic and the recertification courses established?

Prior to the implementation of the regulations, the EMTTF Advisory Council conducted a statewide survey to determine the average cost for EMT basic training and for continuing education courses. Following a thorough review of the survey results, average costs were established at \$325 per student for basic training and \$5 per credit for continuing education credits.

6. What about courses that cost more than \$5 per credit? Is the EMTTF paying for those courses?

No. Although members of the EMTTF Advisory Council supported the reimbursement of continuing education courses whose costs exceeded \$5 per credit, the NJ State First Aid Council did not support this change. At a meeting of the NJSFAC Board of Trustees held on January 18, 1998, the board voted not to support raising the \$5 per credit fee. The fee was not increased. However, should interested parties seek to address this issue at future meetings of the EMTTF Advisory Council, they may do so.

7. When are these meetings held, and can anyone attend?

In 1999, quarterly meetings will be held on March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 8, 1999. The March meeting will be held at the Sayreville First Aid Squad. The June meeting at the Allentown First Aid Squad, and the two remaining meeting locations will be named at a later date.

Anyone who wishes to, may attend. At the end of each meeting, time is set aside for public comment. Anyone who wishes to speak before the council will be recognized and have an opportunity to express a viewpoint, register a concern and/or pose a question.

8. Many volunteer firefighters are required by their departments to be EMT certified. Are they entitled to the benefits of the EMTTF? If not, why not?

Any decision requiring volunteer firefighters to be EMT certified rests with the community they serve and with the leadership of the department they belong to. With regard to the EMTTF, it is very specific as to who benefits. The reimbursement benefits pertain only to volunteer ambulance, first aid or rescue squad personnel. If the volunteers affiliated with the agency in question are not the designated provider of volunteer EMS for their community, they are not eligible for reimbursement benefits.

9. Are EMTs who work in the paid sector, but are affiliated with a volunteer first aid squad, eligible for the benefits of reimbursement?

Yes, as long as they attend their continuing education classes as a member of the volunteer agency of which they are a member. Courses conducted for paid providers are not eligible for reimbursement. Continuing education courses open to both paid and volunteer providers, are eligible for reimbursement for each volunteer attending the program.

10. Are out-of-state agencies eligible for reimbursement from the EMTTF?

Yes, providing that the continuing education programs meet New Jersey program guidelines and the courses are open to New Jersey EMS volunteers.